



Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedure

Appendix 1

Definitions of Abuse taken from the London Child Protection Procedures London Child Protection Procedures - 5th edition (April 2015)

PHYSICAL ABUSE: Actual or likely physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent injury (or suffering) to a child including deliberate poisoning, suffocation and Munchausen's syndrome by proxy. Female genital mutilation is a collective term for procedures that remove part or all of the external female genitalia for cultural or other non-medical reasons.

NEGLECT: The persistent or severe neglect of a child or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development including non organic failure to thrive.

SEXUAL ABUSE: Actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent. The child may be dependent and or developmentally immature.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE: The persistent emotional ill treatment or rejection of a child, having an adverse effect on the emotional and behavioural development. All abuse involves some emotional ill treatment. This category should be used where it is the main or sole form of abuse, cyber bullying and other forms of bullying.

Staff must be alert to the initial signs of abuse

Some initial signs of abuse may include:

Physical Abuse:

- Repeated injuries/marks on a child including bruising, scratches; welts; burn marks; broken bones; swollen and tender to touch body parts; red marks.
- Is unusually fearful;
- Sadness, anxiety, secretiveness, withdrawal without an explanation consistent with the behaviours;
- Mood changes, tantrums, aggressiveness without an explanation consistent with the behaviours;
- Unwilling to go home;
- Unwilling to undress;
- Difficulty in walking or sitting;

Emotional Abuse:

- Is seen as 'different' or 'bad' by the parents;
- Daytime wetting;
- Unwilling to go home;
- Poor Concentration;
- Low self-esteem and sense of self worth;
- Withdrawn, quiet; keeps to themselves; worried about being wrong and upsetting others, particularly adults.

Sexual Abuse:

- Is unusually fearful;
- Nightmares;
- Daytime wetting;
- Unwilling to go home;
- Unwilling to undress;
- Difficulty in walking or sitting;
- Sexually explicit play/language;
- Experiencing pain when going to the toilet;
- Bruising and marking to the genital and/or anal area.

Neglect:

- Evidence of dehydration / or malnutrition without obvious cause;
- Evidence of overall poor care;
- Is seen as 'different' or 'bad' by the parents;
- Daytime wetting;
- Poor Concentration / often very tired;
- Unwilling to go home;
- Child is often arriving at nursery hungry/thirsty and looks generally unwell often;
- Dirty clothing / hair / skin regularly etc.

Other signs to be aware of:

- Unexplained injuries or injuries and marks which do not have an explanation consistent with the injury/mark; with unsatisfactory or inconsistent explanations from parents/carers regarding the cause of such injuries.
- Several different explanations provided for an injury.
- Repeated presentation of minor injuries.
- Changes in the child's behaviour, emotional development which may not be consistent with current known circumstances.

These are just some of the signs that may alert you to the fact that a child is being abused. Only one of these on their own may not indicate a child is being abused but where you find a combination of these things, alarm bells should start ringing.